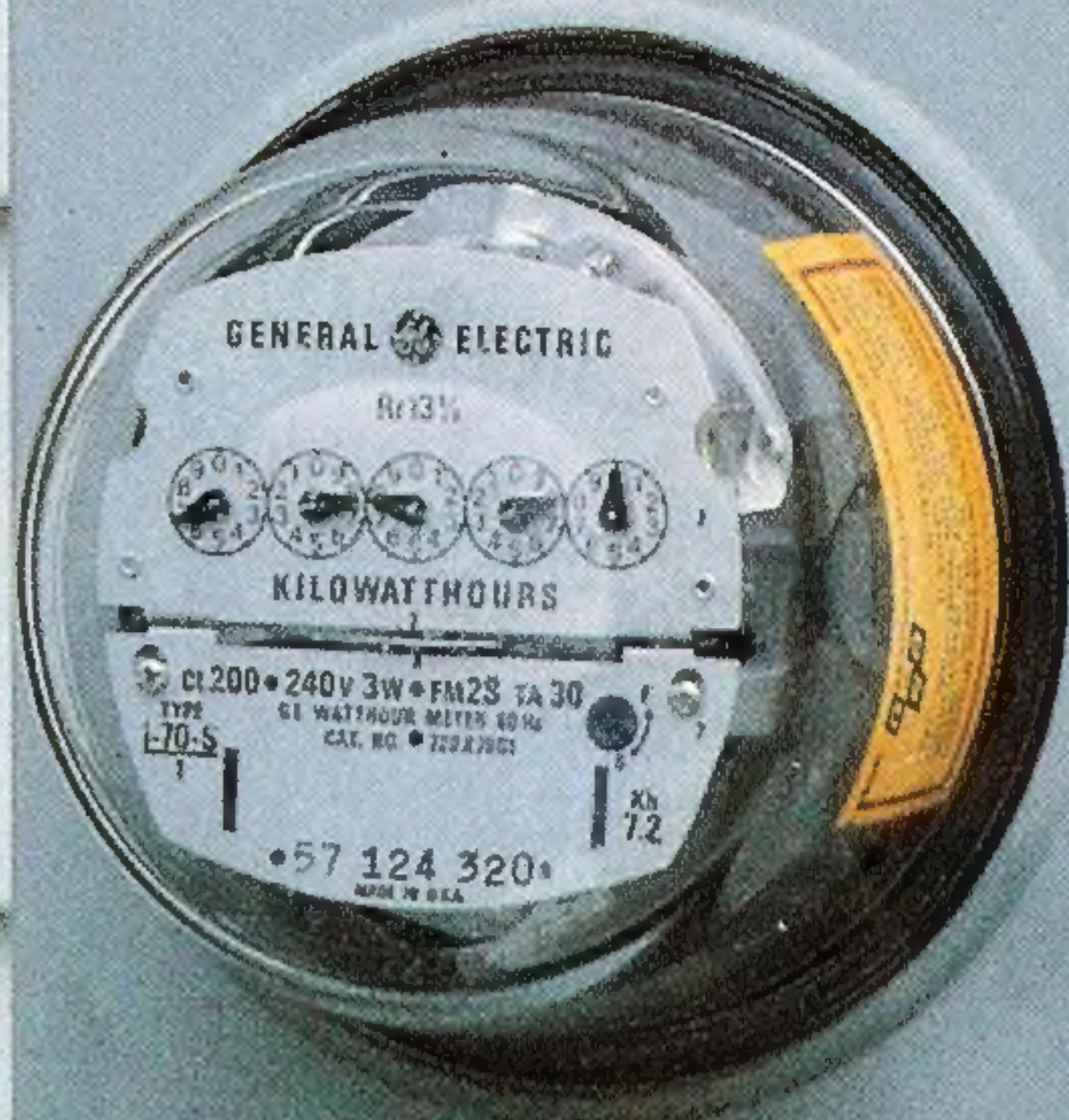


PLAIN TALKS

Oct.-Nov. 1985



Volume 64

Number 9

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PLAIN TALKS

Oct.-Nov. 1985

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-81) and return them to the mailroom in the Edison Plaza. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.

Man of the hour

Gulf States Utilities
Lake Charles, La.

Dear Sir:

On July 5, 1985, I was driving from Beaumont to New Orleans via I-10. There were two other ladies with me. Our automobile had a blowout near Lake Charles. I managed to get the spare out and set up the jack as cars and trucks whizzed by. And at the moment of truth — Could I really change the tire? — a Gulf States employee, Mr. Pete McCrosky, pulled up behind me.

He was most gracious and changed the tire. You can imagine our relief.

In these days of everyone griping about the high rates, etc., I thought you would be happy to hear about the kindness and courtesy of Mr. McCrosky — a fine representative for GSU.

Sincerely,
Ann O'Neill

Editor's note: Pete McCrosky is assistant general line supervisor in Lake Charles.

Church work

Richard Higginbotham
Gulf States Utilities
Lafayette, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Higginbotham:

I wanted to write this note to express my appreciation and that of the Community Christian Assembly Church in Sunset for the excellent service and help you gave us in changing the location of our electrical service to the building.

Thanks for a job well done.

Sincerely,
Dr. William A. Klos
Associate Pastor

Editor's note: Higginbotham is a district serviceman-1st class working out of the Church Point office.

Mystery solver

Yvonne T. Woods
Gulf States Utilities
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Ms. Woods,

Once again, I wanted to thank you for all the time and effort you put forth to try to help me solve the mystery of the temporary meter bill. I apologize for the paper on which I am conveying my thanks. I wish I had time to run and get a lovely card instead. The important thing, I guess, is that you know how much I appreciate all your efforts. In this fast-paced world, it's nice to know that there is still someone out there who will take a few minutes to help another in need.

God bless you,
Brenda Chapman

Editor's note: Woods is supervisor-credit and collections for Baton Rouge Division Accounting.

High praise

James Fernandez
Gulf States Utilities
Port Arthur, Texas

Dear Mr. Fernandez:

It has been brought to my attention that you were instrumental in organizing a Neighborhood Radio Watch program in Groves, Texas.

My administration has been working hard to build a stronger and better-coordinated criminal justice system. One of the programs which I have placed an emphasis on is crime prevention, particularly the Neighborhood Watch Program. I believe that there is not anything that would deter the would-be criminal more than the knowledge that people have banded together to fight crime. Citizens working in concert with law enforcement personnel have proven quite successful. We are hoping that more communities across Texas will realize the value of this program

and form groups such as yours.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally commend you for your action and to wish the program much success. I hope all the citizens of the City of Groves become involved with this program.

Yours truly,
Mark White
Governor of Texas

Editor's note: Fernandez is supervisor-marketing in Port Arthur.

Prompt repairs praised

F. E. Doughty
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Mr. Doughty:

I just wanted to say thank you for a job done well and done fast. Early this morning around 4 a.m. during heavy rain, my electricity went out. The power was cut off after a loud boom from a transformer behind my backyard. I reported it, and a very short time later two of your men arrived and repaired the damage in about 10 minutes. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,
Mrs. James D. Goodwin

THE COVER

Melvin Grimes, meter reader in Beaumont, tries out one of the new handheld meter reading devices scheduled to be in use across much of the GSU service area by November.

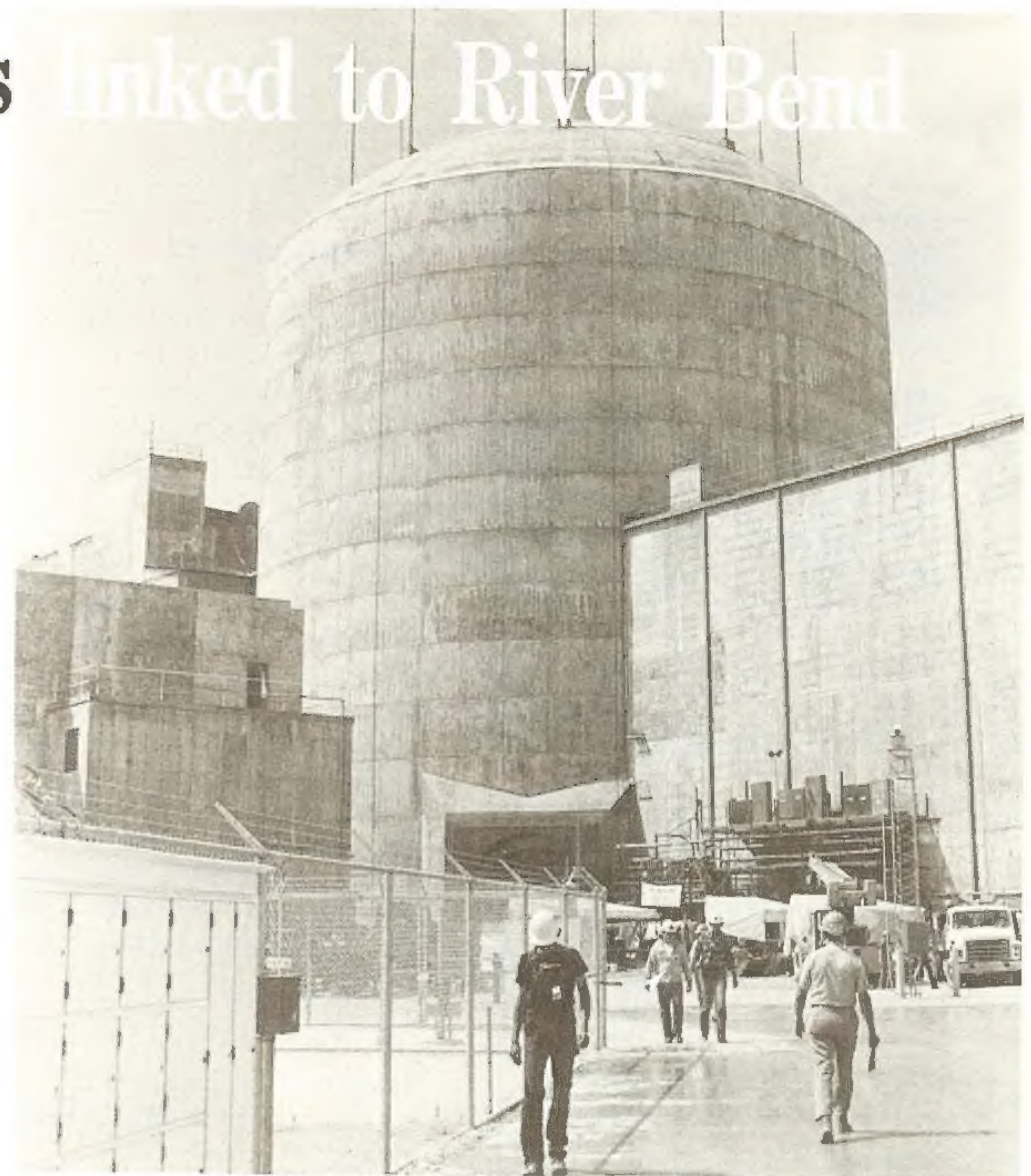
The handheld devices are minicomputers which will store all of the information necessary on each meter reader's route. Use of the new technology means an eventual end to the old-fashioned meter reader cards in use for decades. Find out more about the minicomputers on page 6. Cover photo by Mike Rodgers.

Rate requests linked to River Bend

by Mike Rodgers

"It is extremely critical for the financial viability of this company to get the River Bend Nuclear Station in the rate base," says William Jefferson, vice president-rates and regulatory affairs. By the end of 1985, GSU will have filed for five rate increases with all three of the regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over rates. Three of the cases are directly linked to River Bend.

"The nuclear station is a significant investment," stresses Jefferson, "and I do not see how the company can survive for long without getting it covered in rates." Gulf States recently filed retail rate cases in both Texas and Louisiana to cover some of the costs of River Bend. The new rates must be in effect by the time the plant goes into commercial operation. Says Jefferson, "We're concerned about the impact on our customers, who watched rates increase about 20 percent last January when the Exxon natural gas contract expired. So, we filed a rate moderation plan." Under rate moderation, the cost of new rates will be spread out over two years



instead of coming into the rate base all at once.

In Louisiana, the request for the first year of new retail rates is about \$242 million, or about a

28 percent increase. The request for the second year is approximately \$118 million or an 11 percent increase. According to Jefferson, GSU asked the Public Utility Commission of Texas to increase retail rates about \$113 million or 14 percent the first year, and \$88 million or 10 percent the second year. In December, Gulf States will ask the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for permission to charge higher rates to electric cooperatives and cities which make up the bulk of GSU's wholesale customers. This case is also linked to the cost of River Bend.

Earlier this year, two other rate requests were submitted. The company asked the Louisiana Public Service Commission to approve a 4 percent boost for natural gas customers in Baton Rouge. A transmission service case to cover the cost of wheeling power to other utilities was filed with FERC in May.



David Herring, corporate research analyst, and Linda Thomas, engineering assistant, assemble one of the documents needed for GSU's rate cases.

Economic development of the service area is a high priority goal for GSU, a fact evident in the recently filed cases. "We have filed an economic development rate, a lower rate to encourage new industry to locate in our service area and bring additional jobs with them. It should also encourage existing industry to expand," Jefferson explains with a note of enthusiasm. With an incentive such as this, Gulf States will try to ease the high unemployment rate in some parts of the service area and boost company revenue.

In addition, two other rates will be offered to increase industrial sales. One is a larger discount for customers who will let us interrupt their service on very short notice. The other is a lower rate offering for short term power purchases on a month-by-month basis, depending on variations in fuel and purchased power costs and levels of generating reserves.

Two proposed rate schedules are designed for residential



The 15th floor of Edison Plaza, the nerve center of final preparations for the rate case filings.

customers. If approved, a discount will be offered for new, energy-efficient homes meeting Good Cents standards. Residential customers using electricity during the off-peak winter season will have the chance to take advantage of lower rates as well.

Jefferson points out that in the past, GSU adopted such incen-

tives as time-of-day rates for residential customers and interruptible rates for industrial customers. "We want people to know that we're not just looking for ways to raise our rates," he says. "The Rate Department looks for ways to help customers lower their bills, as well."



Barbara Wilkinson (left) shares a friendly remark with Joyce Viltz, clerk.

Meter cards to be obsolete

by Mike Rodgers

The dictionary defines the word "obsolete" as "outmoded ... something no longer in use." The term could eventually apply to meter reader cards at Gulf States, since they, too, may join the ranks of the obsolete.

"Those cards will be replaced by handheld meter reading devices, which are actually minicomputers," says Butch Franklin, director-division accounting services. Instead of writing the number down, meter readers will punch the information on a small keyboard on each minicomputer. The computers are programmed with records on each meter in a given route, and can provide several types of information. According to Franklin, the computers will cut the time between reading a meter and mailing the bill to the customer from four days to two.

At the end of the working day, the handheld devices will be plugged into a small box, where the information stored inside them will be transmitted via microwave to one of 18 different IBM personal computers (pc's)

throughout the system. From the personal computers, the information will be transmitted to the mainframe computer in Edison Plaza. The mainframe can, in turn, send programming information back through the pc's to each individual hand-held computer. Also, other information can be programmed into each device. For example, if an ill-tempered dog lives at the next house on a route, an alarm will sound to warn the meter reader to be careful.

This new technology promises to save customers money and make meter-reading more efficient. The task force formed to make recommendations on the handheld equipment projected a total annual savings of \$1.4 million in printing, reading and rereading expenses. GSU reads about 650,000 meters a month, or nearly 8 million each year. Of that number, only about 53,000 per year must be reread due to errors. "We should be able to cut out about 95 percent of those errors with the electronic technology," Franklin says enthusiastically.



Butch Franklin (left), director-division accounting services, watches as Jack Martin, meter reader supervisor-Beaumont, places a handheld meter reading device in a cradle for overnight reprogramming.

"The minicomputers will store the upper and lower limits for each account. If the reader punches in figures outside those limits, the computer will ask him to read the meter again. The second figure entered will be accepted." Currently, a reread requires someone to go to the customer's home in a truck, take a new reading and return to the office. Each reread done this way costs GSU about \$13.50, so the savings in travel time alone will be significant.

One of the most obvious changes for meter readers will be an end to the wet meter cards which sometimes result when readings are taken in the rain. After training sessions were held, the minicomputers were tested in Beaumont District, Vidor and Orange in October. If all goes well, meter readers throughout the system should be using them in November.



Meter readers Mary Davis (left), Daisetta and Denise Walters, Dayton, inspect a handheld device during a training class.



Rod Tompkins



Jan Ratcliff, Phil Brannan



Tom Gilbert (left), Weldon Dube

GSU after-hours

by Susan Gilley

Long after most employees have left for home, a few Gulf Staters throughout the company work throughout the evening and night.

Their jobs are vital links in the process of providing electricity to more than a half-million homes and hundreds of small and large businesses.

Some night jobs are directly related to production of electricity, while others — as in Computer Applications — support necessary office activities.

In the Production Department, Weldon Dube, control operations foreman at Lewis Creek Station, says he has worked nights for a good portion of the almost 37 years he has been with the company.

He claims that working nights has definite advantages. "If you want to do something in the daytime, you can do it without the weekend crowds. And there are some things you can't do on weekends, like banking," Dube points out.

Echoing that viewpoint is Rod Tompkins, who works nights as a division substation operator in Port Arthur.

Father to three children and foster father to one, Tompkins says his rotating work schedule has permitted him to spend more time with his children, although it is difficult to schedule

leisuretime activities with friends his own age.

Jan Ratcliff, EDP shift supervisor in Edison Plaza, couldn't agree more. "The disadvantage," she points out, "is that if you have a boyfriend, spouse or children, you have to try to fit your world into their world." But Ratcliff, who works three rotating shifts — days, evenings and graveyards — prefers the last two shifts for a variety of reasons. For example, she points out, she is in the market for a new car. Unlike many 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. workers, she does not have to rush out on her lunch hour or after work to test-drive a vehicle.

Two computer operators who report to Ratcliff shared their reasons for preferring evening and night shift over days.

A sailing enthusiast, Beth Pool says she spends many of her sunny days off at the beach enjoying her favorite hobby. Her co-worker, Phil Brannan, is pleased with the lack of heavy traffic as he drives to and from his shifts. (The shifts are 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2-10 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.)

Ratcliff, Pool and Brannan work in the computer center, and their jobs involve file maintenance for several computer programs. After 5 p.m. their work is rigidly scheduled. During the day shift, they find they must deal with interruptions

for meetings and various problems occurring while so many users are on the computer system.

Of eight night workers interviewed, all agreed that switching from one work schedule to another is tough. However, all seemed to think the advantages outweighed the disadvantages.

Tompkins, who also rotates among three shifts, says he works alone on the graveyard shift and with only one other person — a troubleshooter — on the evening shift. The only real drawback, he says, is that customers tend to call the "lights out" number, which is for trouble calls, after hours with their complaints.

Evening and night work does not always take place under ideal conditions. For example, Dube and other power plant workers sometimes find those shifts the hardest of all, particularly when freezing weather and other adverse conditions cause operating problems.

And Tompkins says such conditions make his job more hectic, but he points out that linemen and others who are called out at night during storms really have his sympathy. Not only is the work load stepped up, but normal lighting is not available to ease the tasks, he points out.

And that, after all, is why GSU keeps working, day and night.

New life for old landmark

by Mike Rodgers

Longtime GSUers will remember back in the mid-1950s when Gulf States purchased the 22-story Edson Hotel in downtown Beaumont. After two years of extensive renovation, the Edson became corporate headquarters for the company and was known as the Gulf States Building. It was renamed the Liberty-Pearl complex in 1982.

Corporate headquarters remained there for a quarter-century until Edison Plaza, two blocks away, was completed in early 1982. Almost immediately, Beaumont Division headquarters moved into the vacant lower floors of Liberty-Pearl, where it is today. The upper level is occupied by the company's microwave communications equipment. Liberty-Pearl is also the location of the new Energy Control Center.

Although GSU occupied about 47 percent of the space, Gulf

States was left with a building having many empty floors. "It's our job to find substantial tenants for the building," says Joe Chaney, supervisor-system real estate. By substantial tenants, Chaney means firms which will stay in the Liberty-Pearl Complex on a long-term basis. Several private businesses leased space when it became available, and the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS) used a few offices, but the search continued to fill up more of the vacant floors. "This fall, TDHS brought its entire Beaumont operations into the Liberty-Pearl Building," adds Chaney, "and became our largest single tenant." With that move, 93 percent of the office space is in use.

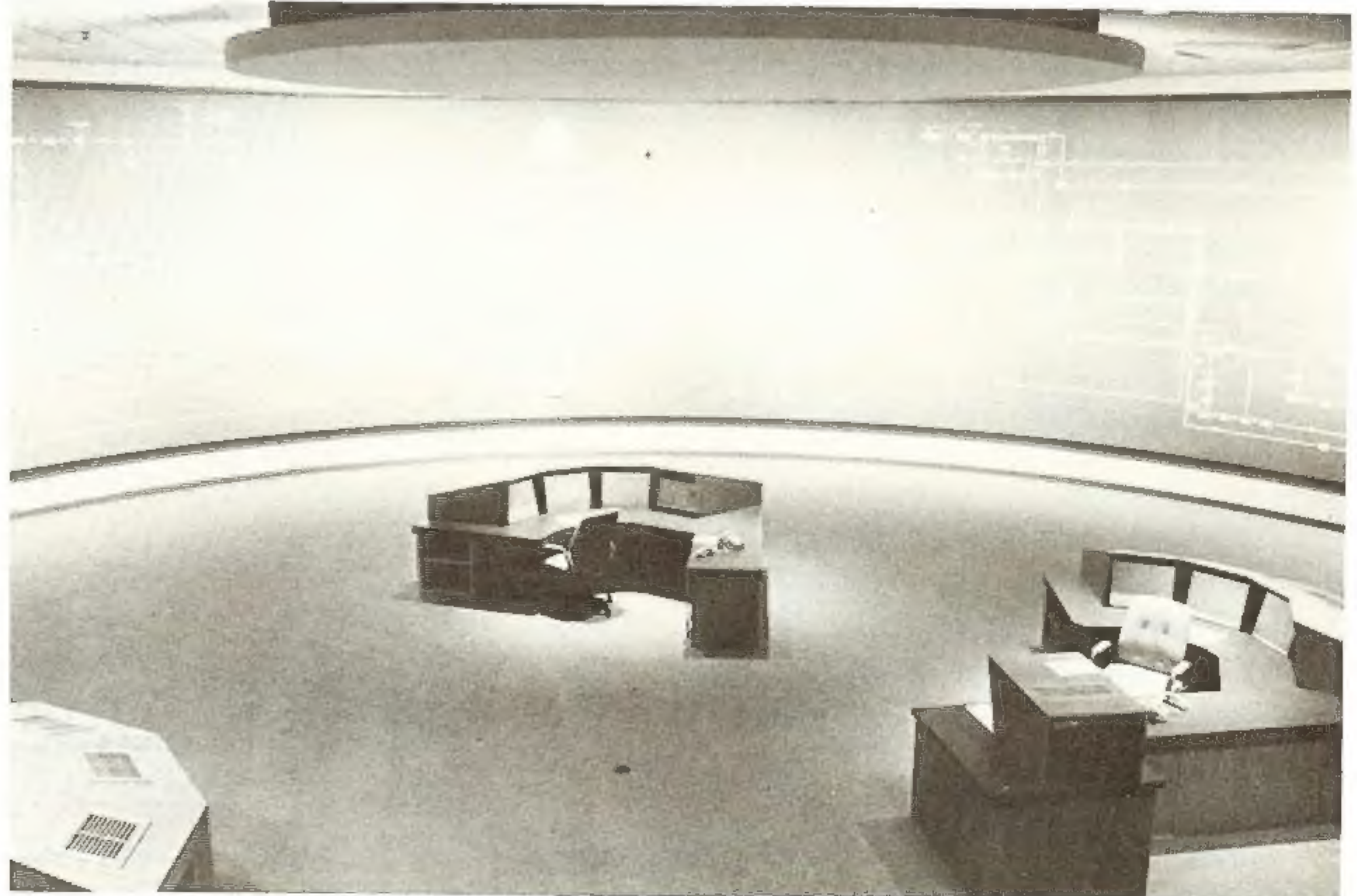
It is the responsibility of the General Services Department to see that lease provisions are beneficial to both the tenant and Gulf States. "We take a look

at what the prospective tenant requests in the way of renovations or special requirements to make sure they are cost-effective for us," notes Bill Douglas, manager-office services. This may mean changes in electrical wiring to accommodate computers, or as in the case of TDHS, state regulations on air conditioning and the number of times windows are washed each year. The company is finding it necessary to update control systems to meet the needs of tenants. Douglas also points out, "Under our agreement with TDHS, we will provide a given number of parking spaces for use by both employees and the general public doing business with the state agency."

Chaney stresses the importance to the company of leasing the space in Liberty-Pearl. "Buildings left vacant and unused will deteriorate very quickly and result in extreme depreciation," he says. "Now, even with the cost of renovation and maintenance, we're receiving revenue by managing our real estate assets and at the same time maintaining the building and its value."

The Liberty-Pearl Complex (left) in downtown Beaumont with GSU's microwave communications equipment on the roof.

The new Energy Control Center (below) is located in the Liberty-Pearl Complex.



GSUers help Jerry's kids

by Mike Rodgers

Labor Day is traditionally the last holiday of summer, the last opportunity for families to take a short vacation together before school starts once again. Some GSU employees came together on Labor Day to take part in another tradition, the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon.

Twelve GSUers in Beaumont joined thousands of other Americans working behind the scenes taking pledge calls from those donating money to fight the crippling disease. A special guest at the local telethon headquarters this year was Colene Crawford, widow of Don Crawford, former Gulf States board chairman and a victim of Muscular Dystrophy. Mrs. Crawford spoke about her late husband's struggle against the disease with telethon co-host Tommy Vance.

Helping charitable organizations is in itself a tradition at GSU. In addition to the many groups supported privately, hundreds of employees take an active part in the annual March of Dimes Walkathon and the United Way drive.



(Left to right) Pat Fukes, senior employment interviewer; Beth Dodge, management assistant and Ralph Amerine, part-time utility worker.



Colene Crawford talks with telethon co-host Tommy Vance about Muscular Dystrophy and her late husband, former GSU Board Chairman Don Crawford.



(Left to right) Stella Smith, departmental clerk; Candy Craft, secretary and Karen Blanton, customer contact clerk.



Cindy Stehle, graphic technician, organized the GSU group which participated in the MDA Telethon.



Photo by Myra Ponthier



Photo by Nina Wiley



Photo by Ella Brown

Some of the GSUers who staff drive-through windows are (clockwise, from lower left): **Port Allen:** Lynn Oubre, local office clerk; **Conroe:** Terri Rogers, clerk; **Zachary:** Gwen Gill, customer contact clerk; **Gonzales:** Carol Darville, customer contact clerk; Charlotte Gautreau, local office clerk; and Ina Smiley, local office clerk; **Mid County:** Marie Roccaforte, customer contact clerk; and Berniece Bond, customer contact clerk; **Port Arthur:** Sara Hernandez, clerk; **Huntsville:** Cindy Saldana, local office clerk.

Drive-through service

Move over, McDonald's?

by T.J. Reyes

Just like your favorite fast food restaurant, the local dry cleaners and other service-based businesses, several Gulf States locations offer drive-through window service.

GSU customers can find automotive access to more than a dozen offices from Conroe to Zachary. And those locations report that drive-throughs are popular.

"Our window in Port Arthur stays busy all day," says Ronnie Carlin, supervisor of accounting in that division. He dates their curbside service back to the 1970s, when the building which houses the office was built.

Some drive-through customers become "regulars," according to Berniece Bond, customer contact clerk in Mid County. She adds that drive-through traffic peaks around lunch, in late afternoon and on paydays. Co-worker Marie Roccaforte enjoys the "steady

stream of babies, dogs and new cars" that pass before her when working the window.

But what is the attraction for customers who use drive-through service? "Many customers prefer paying their bills in person, and drive-throughs offer the convenience of doing so without leaving their cars," points out Jim Wilder, Conroe-based supervisor of accounting in the Western Division. These customers save time when they don't have to park their automobiles.

It's hard to imagine signs in front of GSU's offices boasting kilowatthour sales — reading "over 32 billion sold" last year — as McDonald's tracks hamburger sales on their golden arches. But, GSUers who staff the drive-throughs agree. Traffic proves GSU customers like the added convenience drive-through service provides them.



Photo by T.J. Reyes



Photo by Susan Gilley



Photo by Carol Payne



Albert Richard (left) talks to Clint A. Verret, lineman-1st class, during a visit to a work site.

Richard witnesses change

by Susan Gilley

When Albert Richard came to work as a helper for Gulf States in Port Arthur in 1948, he earned \$1.05 an hour.

The size of his paycheck has been only one of many changes Richard has witnessed in the ensuing 37 years.

Now assistant general line supervisor, Richard says the biggest — and most welcome — changes have resulted in safer, more efficient operations.

"We used to have larger crews with trucks that pulled trailers full of poles. In those days, you dug the hole, then set the pole and did the line work," he remembers. The emphasis on safety, he adds, "has increased almost constantly since I began work."

Amidst the change, however, one thing remained constant — Richard spent his entire career in Port Arthur, which has been

home to him, his wife Lula Mae and their seven children.

All but the youngest have left home now, and when Richard retires later this year, he plans to spend much of his time visiting those who have moved to Austin, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Virginia.

He will also visit a brother in Loreauville, La., his hometown.

In his present job, Richard's time is about evenly divided between outside work and paper-work. Richard, who grew up on a farm, says he feels he needed that connection with the outdoors in his work life.

Asked if he has a work philosophy, he responds, "Just hard work." He offers a little more insight, however, by commenting, "You have to be real flexible in dealing with the employees you supervise." Now the supervisor of 35 employees, Richard says he has discovered, "Seldom do you find any two that respond the same."



Cart Varnado test-fired the torch (above) before it was installed at Tiger Stadium (at right).



Magic makers

by Ronnie Bordelon

Spectators described the opening ceremonies at National Sports Festival VI in Baton Rouge July 26 as dramatic.

GSU Gas Department employees played a role in the spectacular lighting of the torch that first night.

About 50,000 onlookers witnessed a laser beam shooting across the darkened Tiger Stadium and appearing to light the official Festival flame atop a gigantic cauldron, but a few GSUers knew the secret behind the ceremony.

About four days before the 12-day festival began, local organizers could not locate representatives of the company slated to build the torch. Baton Rouge Division Vice President Jim Moss asked Tom McBryde, operating supervisor-gas, if GSU might be able to help, and McBryde said yes. As a result, Cart Varnado, meter and

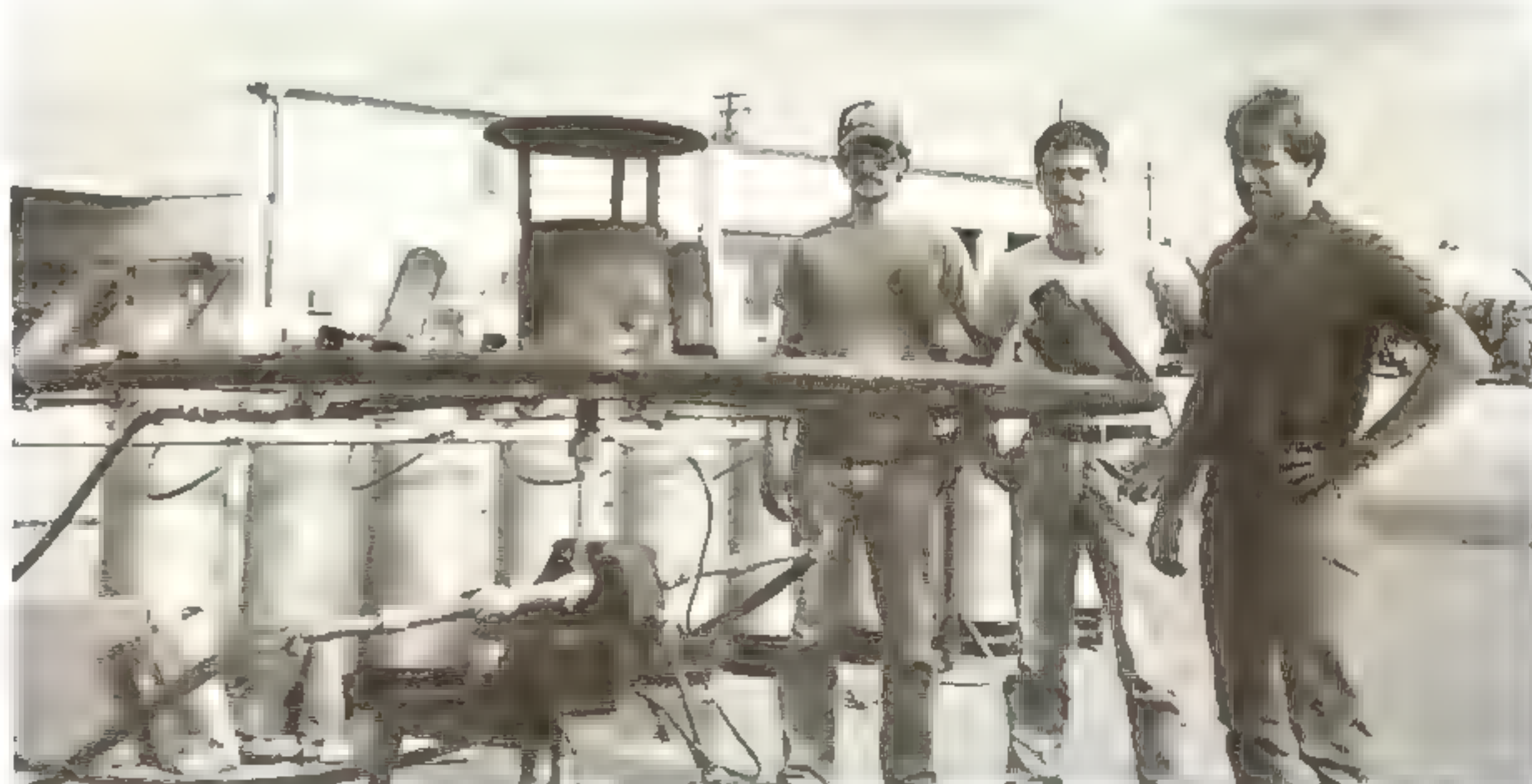
regulator foreman, designed the torch and a trio of employees built it and test-fired it.

On Thursday, July 25, Dennis Lytle, meterman-2nd class; Neal Hanna, apprentice; and Leslie LeJeune, pipeman welder-3rd class, set it in place atop the Tiger Stadium scoreboard, assisted by workers from a

construction firm.

The following night, the laser beam struck the cauldron, which grew brighter as a radio dispatcher signaled a crew hiding behind the scoreboard that it was time to light the gas torch.

The resulting display was pure magic in the eyes of the sports fans.



Gas Dept. employees working on the torch included (from left) Leslie LeJeune, Neal Hanna and Dennis Lytle.



Posing with Charles Glover (far left) at his retirement barbecue is his family: wife Katherine, daughters Mary and Martha, and son Michael.

Glover ends Gulf States career

Gonzales District Superintendent Charles Glover retired on July 1, after nearly 45 years with Gulf States. He was honored with a retirement barbecue held June 27 in Baton Rouge.

According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Charlotte Gautreau, Division Vice President Jim Moss presented Glover with a safety award for completing his career without a single lost-time accident.



Jean Andrews displays some of her gifts.

Andrews retires in Port Arthur

Jean Andrews was guest of honor at a retirement reception held June 28. Andrews, supervisor of customer services in Port Arthur, retired in July with nearly 32 years of service.

According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Sue Simon, among the gifts from co-workers were a camera, a bouquet of roses and photograph albums with "pictures of President Grant and Ben Franklin."



Robert shows his new tackle box to guests at his retirement party.

Robert retires in Port Allen

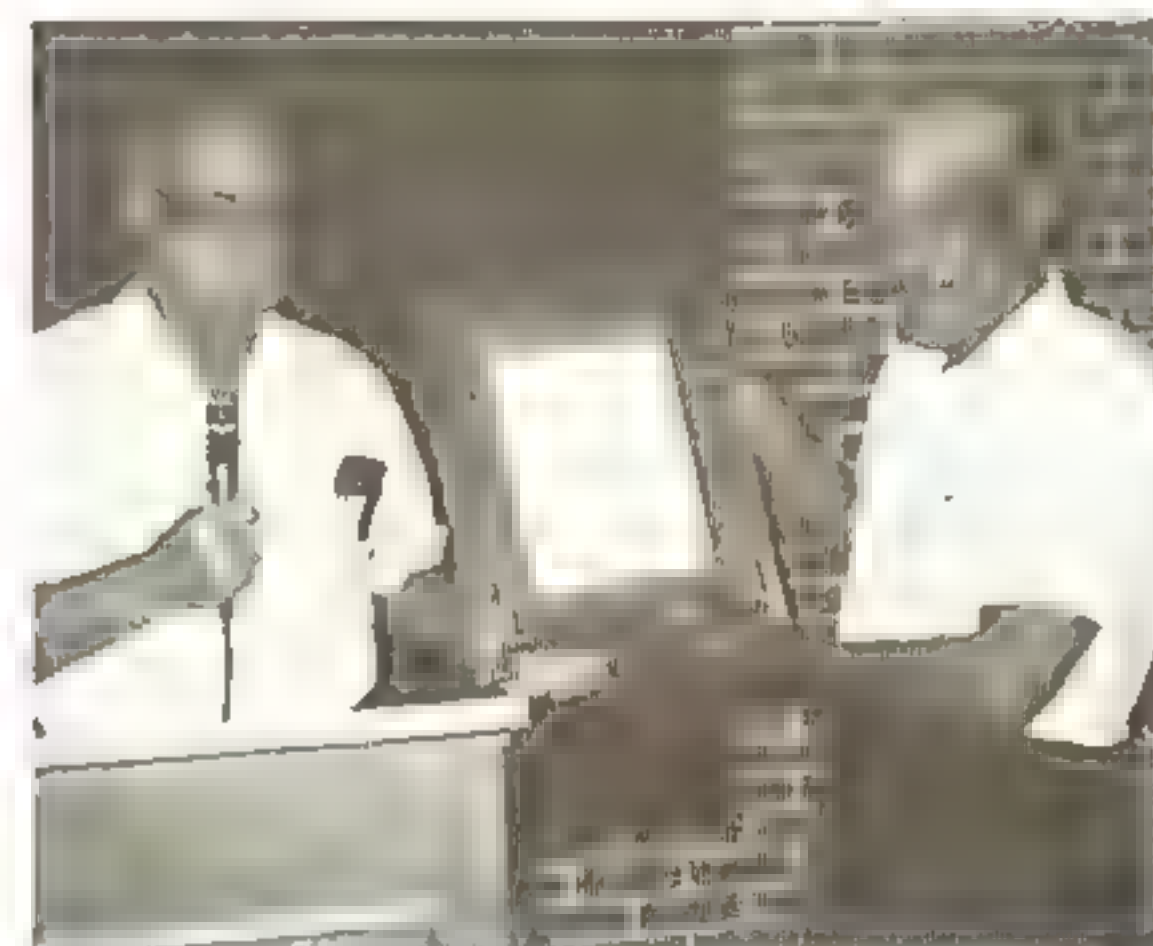
After nearly 39 years with Gulf States, Maurice J. Robert retired on Sept. 1. Robert was formerly a district serviceman-1st class in Port Allen. Friends honored the retiree with a supper held Aug. 14 at the Port Allen Service Center.

Among the gifts he received were fishing equipment and money. According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Ella Brown, Robert received commendations from the city of New Roads, the village of Morganza and the Pointe Coupee sheriff's office.

Lafayette marks St. Julien retirement

Wilfred St. Julien ended 33 years with Gulf States when he retired in Lafayette on July 15. St. Julien, formerly a truckdriver in the Lafayette T&D department, and his wife received several gifts from his co-workers. Among them were a framed invitation to his retirement party and his old hard hat, decorated and filled with cash.

St. Julien also received a plaque from Elbert Heard, division safety and health representative. According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Helen Kennedy, St. Julien received the award for working his entire GSU career without a single lost-time injury.



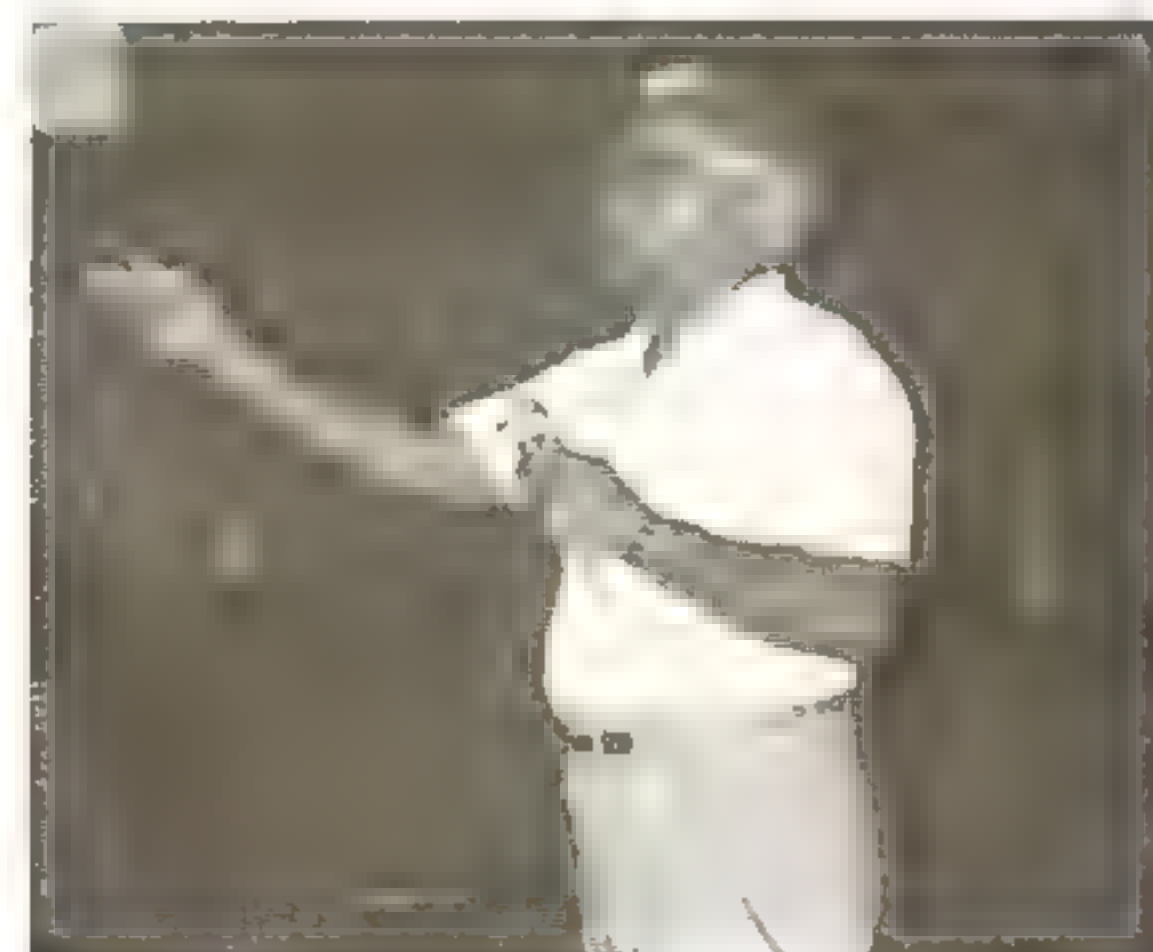
John Landry (left) presents Wilfred St. Julien with a keepsake of his retirement party.

Slocum retires in Lake Charles

Lemorie Slocum, building and grounds maintenance foreman in Lake Charles, retired on June 30 with over 38 years of service.

He was honored by his co-workers with a barbecue on May 31. Slocum received a gift of cash and a videotape of goodbyes from his fellow employees.

According to *Plain Talks* correspondent Edith Patterson, Slocum's father also had worked for GSU.



Lemorie Slocum bids his co-workers farewell.



Daughter born in parking lot

Katie Lynn Strait arrived unexpectedly on Jan. 11 as her father, B.D. Strait, section head-reproduction, was driving his wife Lynn to the hospital.

Katie was born in the parking lot of a savings and loan company in Beaumont. Following the birth, Strait raced to a nearby medical clinic while a police car chased his speeding vehicle. Once the officer understood the need for the hurry, he escorted the Straits to the hospital. Mother, baby and father were in good health and spirits. Katie weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces.



Frederick feted in Lafayette

Co-workers in Lafayette held a baby shower for Lynette Frederick in August. Frederick, a customer contact clerk, received a corsage, car seat and gift certificate. Her husband James is a serviceman-3rd class in Lafayette.

Candace Harland makes appearance

April 17 was a special day for Tim and Cindy Harland of Vidor because their daughter, Candace Meredith Harland, was born on that date. Her father is a district substation operator in Orange.

Extra doctors and nurses were on hand in the delivery room for what was expected to be an extremely small baby. As it turned out, Candace weighed 9 pounds, 3½ ounces and was 21 inches. Her grandfather is Bill Harland, right-of-way agent in Beaumont.



Daughter joins Swope family

Amber Kate Swope made her debut July 7 to Michael and Katie Swope of Orange. She weighed in at 7 pounds, 2½ ounces and was 19 inches. Michael is a serviceman-1st class in Orange.



Jeans announce Melisse Louise

Gordon and Marcia Jean are the proud parents of their first daughter, Melisse Louise, born April 13. The infant weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 21 inches. Her father is operations supervisor at Nelson Station. Melisse has an older brother, 2-year-old Marshall Ryan Jean.

Girl becomes big sister

Laura Ann Easterwood became a big sister on Feb. 16 with the birth of little brother, Jeffrey Michael Easterwood.

The newcomer weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 21½ inches, announce his proud parents, Terry and Renee Easterwood of Beaumont.

The dad is a production engineer in Performance Engineering.



Richards add Justin Reed

Jeffrey and Belinda Richard of Spring, Texas, are the new parents of Justin Reed Richard, born Jan. 24. Justin weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 inches. His father is a T&D helper for The Woodlands District.



Swinneys welcome new daughter

Kacy Blaine Swinney came into the world July 9 to Frank and Karen Swinney of Cleveland, Texas. The infant weighed 10 pounds, 2½ ounces and was 22½ inches. She has a brother, 3-year-old Joseph. Her father is a mechanic-1st class in New Caney.





Stout completes missile training

Army Pvt. Robert R. Stout, son of Bobby and Betty Stout of Conroe, completed the Pershing missile crewman training course under the One Station Unit Training (OSUT) program at Fort Sill, Okla. OSUT combines basic training with advanced individual training.

During the course, Robert studied maintenance and firing operation of the Pershing missile and transportation skills for weapons deployment.

Bobby Stout is a utility line foreman in The Woodlands District.



Front row: Sheila Chamberlain.

Chamberlain transfers to Lake Charles

Lasagna was the main course at a going-away luncheon for Sheila Chamberlain given by the storeroom staff at Nelson Coal. Sheila was a departmental clerk in the storeroom and transferred to customer accounting in Lake Charles.

Family greets baby early

Delaine Marie Duncan decided to make her appearance on Feb. 24 — an entire month earlier than the doctor had predicted!

The infant daughter of Mark and Teri Duncan of Westlake weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 22 inches at birth. Her dad is an electrician-1st class at Nelson Coal.



Peron given baby shower

Friends gave Debbie Peron, customer contact clerk in Port Arthur Division, a baby shower at the main office in August. She was presented with an assortment of just about everything a baby could use, from portable crib to disposable diapers.



Gauthiers celebrate new arrival

Malcolm and Janet Gauthier of Baton Rouge celebrated the birth of Kirkland Arron Gauthier Jan. 23. The baby weighed in at 8 pounds, 7 ounces. His father is a lineman-1st class at the Choctaw service center. Kirkland has a sister named Tonya.



Teresa George and Barry Murchison, supervisor-customer services.

GSUer honored as 'Superstar'

Teresa George, PBX operator in Port Arthur Division, was selected "Service Superstar" for August by the Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce.

In making the announcement, past Chamber President Bob Shaw said, "The greatest asset of any nation, city or business is its people. Among our people in Port Arthur are a few who perform with such excellence and special warmth that they set

a high example for the rest of us. Teresa George is just such a person."

George started with Gulf States in 1979 and transferred to the Port Arthur Division from Beaumont in 1981. Each month, the Greater Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce honors a person who serves the public in a contact position with excellence.



Baby Dawson wins scholarship

Little Audrey Joe Dawson won the 1985 Miss Starlight contest at the National Starlight baby contest in June. At the ripe old age of 7 months Audrey won a college scholarship. She is the pride and joy of Lloyd and Katy Dawson. Lloyd is an equipment operator at Sabine Station.

Dads, daughters play T-ball

Three daughters of GSU employees played on the same T-ball team, the Huntsville Sweeties, this summer, while two of the dads coached. The players included Latasha Mitchell, daughter of Larry Mitchell, senior engineering assistant in Conroe; Sara Jeffcote, daughter of Coach Joel Jeffcote, district superintendent in Huntsville, and Jennifer Mayrant, daughter of Susan and Coach Gary Mayrant. Jennifer's mother is a departmental clerk in Huntsville.

A

Acosta, Anthony B., Sabine Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Andrepont, Joseph C., Port Arthur, to meterman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Arceneaux, William F. Jr., Lake Charles, to relayman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Aytes, James D., Orange, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

B

Becker, David K., Beaumont, to relayman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Bernard, Steve R., Denham Springs, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Blacksher, Terry M., Conroe, to relayman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Bob, Sidney J., Beaumont, to senior engineering assistant, Engineering Standards.

Bookter, Hebert, Baton Rouge, to utility foreman, Electric T&D.

Boyd, David M., River Bend, to master instrument control technician-nuclear, Plant Production.

Broussard, Reid J., Lafayette, to truckdriver, Electric T&D.

Buser, Ted M., Baton Rouge, to communications serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Butler, Randy J., Beaumont, to senior draftsman, Engineering Design.

C

Cobb, Keith L., Vidor, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Copeland, William C. Jr., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-4th class, Electric T&D.

Coppenbarger, Fred L., Gonzales, to collector, Division Accounting.

Core, Earl D., Beaumont, to building technician, Office Services.

Cormier, Harry J. Jr., Lake Charles, to senior energy auditor, Division Marketing.

Cortez, Richard, Beaumont, to serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Croak, Kenneth L. II, Sabine Station, to equipment operator, Plant Production.

D

Donellan, Vincent M., Louisiana Station, to head fireman, Plant Production.

Dorsey, Pluma T., Beaumont, to senior clerk, Division Accounting.

E

Edwards, Rickey T., Conroe, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Engler, Lloyd J., Gonzales, to utility foreman, Electric T&D.

Eppinette, Michael E., Conroe, to serviceman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

F

Frederick, James W. Jr., Lafayette, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Freeman, Marvin B. Jr., Sabine Station, to insulator-1st class, Plant Production.

Frick, James L., River Bend, to electrical maintenance foreman, Plant Production.

G

Galassi, Frank G., Huntsville, to serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Gammage, Frank W., Beaumont, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Gibson, Benny L., Beaumont, to communications serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Gilbreath, Stephen R., Sabine Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Golson, Craig S., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Guillory, Randy J., Nelson Coal, to utility worker II, Plant Production.

H

Hannen, James W., Nelson Coal, to test technician-1st class, Plant Production.

Harris, Lucille M., Conroe, to relayman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Hartner, Patrick N., Baton Rouge, to pipeman welder-2nd class, Gas Department.

Heflin, Harriett D., River Bend Station, to storekeeper, Plant Production.

Higgins, Paula M., Cleveland, to meter reader, Division Accounting.

Hignett, James K., Silsbee, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Hill, Gene R., Nelson Coal, to repairman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Holmes, Michael R., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Hughes, Michael R., Willow Glen, to test technician-2nd class, Plant Production.

J

John-Louis, Gerard, Lafayette, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Jones, Nancy H., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, General Services.

Jones, Terry L., Baton Rouge, to garage mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

K

Keeney, Jeffrey L., Port Arthur, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Kemp, Gregory D., Silsbee, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Knighten, Hawthorne N., Baton Rouge, to serviceman-1st class, Gas Department.

L

Lackey, Roy N., Beaumont, to senior draftsman, Engineering Design.

Landers, Robert E. II, Nelson Coal, to utility worker II, Plant Production.

Landry, Larry, Port Arthur, to helper, Electric T&D.

Landry, Sandra P., Beaumont, to storeroom assistant, Electric T&D.

Lewis, Larry E., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-4th class, Electric T&D.

Lively, Inita M., Beaumont, to stenographer-senior, Fuel Services.

Loewenthal, Charles W., Baton Rouge, to senior engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

Loyd, Mark E., Baton Rouge, to substation mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

M

Mack, Helen C., Beaumont, to senior graphic technician, Administrative Support Services.

Martin, James R., Orange, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

McCauley, Norman G., Daisetta, to serviceman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Miller, David A., Nelson Coal, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Mitchell, Theresa P., Nelson Coal, to electrician-3rd class, Plant Production.

Moore, Larry, Willow Glen Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Moore, Steven L., Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Morgan, Marvin, Baton Rouge, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

N

Norton, Danny J., Sabine Station, to utility worker II, Plant Production.

Nunez, Pamela M., formerly of Sabine Station, to stenographer-senior, System Marketing, Beaumont.

P

Pair, Steven J., Roy S. Nelson Station, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production.

Penn, Bobby J., Baton Rouge, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Perry, William C., Jr., Huntsville, to apprentice, Electric T&D.

Peveto, Linka B., Beaumont, to senior draftsman, Engineering Design.

Philio, Billy R., Trinity, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Pickart, Joseph R., Winnie, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Puls, Mark E., Conroe, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

R

Rachal, Michael D., Baton Rouge, to lineman-1st class, Electric T&D.

Rich, Gary E. Jr., Dayton, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Ryman, Lloyd E. Jr., Beaumont, to utility foreman, Electric T&D.

S

Sikora, Alan, New Caney, to senior engineering assistant, Electric T&D.

Singleton, Warren D., The Woodlands, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D.

Smalley, Robert, Sabine Station, to equipment operator, Plant Production.

Statler, Charles R., Orange, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Stutes, Robin H., Sulphur, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Swinny, Frank S., Conroe, to garage mechanic-1st class, Electric T&D.

T

Taylor, Willie A., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-4th class, Electric T&D.

Theriot, Sandra M., Beaumont, to senior clerk, Division Accounting.

Thibodeaux, Christopher, Roy S. Nelson Station, to repairman-1st class, Plant Production.

Thomas, Donnie L., Huntsville, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Thompson, Mark P., Beaumont, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D.

Thornhill, William D., Willow Glen Station, to repairman-2nd class, Plant Production.

Thurmon, Pamela B., Gonzales, to senior clerk, Division Accounting.

Trask, Edward N., River Bend, to control operating foreman, Plant Production.

Tullier, James H., Baton Rouge, to relayman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

W

Walker, Dent B., Jr., Beaumont, to serviceman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Weathersby, Byrda, Lafayette, to customer contact clerk, Division Accounting.

Wells, Malcolm, Jr., Sabine Station, to mechanic helper, Plant Production.

Wilkinson, Jeffrey L., Beaumont, to senior draftsman, Engineering Design.

Williams, Larry R., Baton Rouge, to corrosion technician-2nd class, Gas Department.

Williams, Sidney A., Beaumont, to lineman-2nd class, Electric T&D.

Willkomm, Gregory M., Conroe, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D.

ENERGY PEOPLE takes you there

Witness fuel loading at River Bend, return to school with a group of science teachers and see Sabine Station safety training in action! You'll see all this and more in the newest *ENERGY PEOPLE*, the video report which highlights people and events at GSU.

Take part in an historic moment for GSU when you travel to St. Francisville with the *ENERGY PEOPLE*. You'll see fuel rods being placed into the reactor during fuel loading.

See how GSU and Nature co-exist as birds nest at a pond near our right-of-way in Orange. Each year this pond becomes home to many beautiful birds, including roseate spoonbills, herons and egrets.

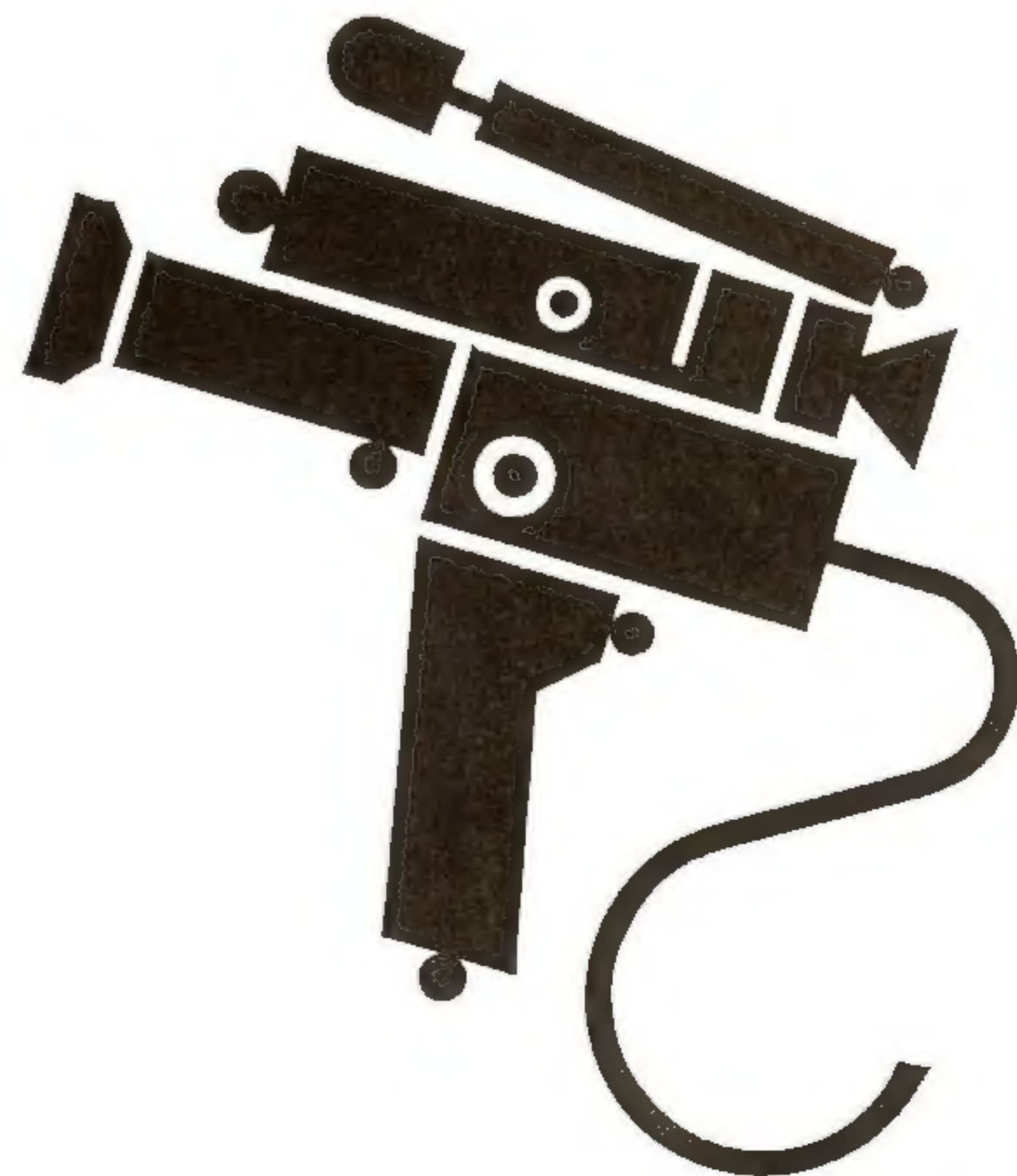
The fall *ENERGY PEOPLE* goes back to school with science teachers attending a GSU-sponsored "Energy Institute." Learn how these classes teach teachers about energy and GSU.

Safety is important to everyone at GSU. Observe a drill at Sabine Station when employees respond to a mock disaster.

Then, it's off to the races with Neches Station employee Al Pierson, who, along with his brothers, built a race car.

The fall edition also features a special news report on the final preparations of GSU's recently-filed rate cases.

Be in the know and see the latest edition of the *ENERGY PEOPLE*. Tapes are available from the corporate library. Check it out!



SERVICE AWARDS

40 years



Alfred Boswell
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Emery J. Fruge
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



Dan J. Goodman
Electric T&D
Conroe



Hubert J. Landry
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



Houston J. Leblue
Electric T&D
Lake Charles



Otto H. Norton
Electric T&D
Port Allen



Charles N. Schlatre
Electric T&D
Port Allen

30 years



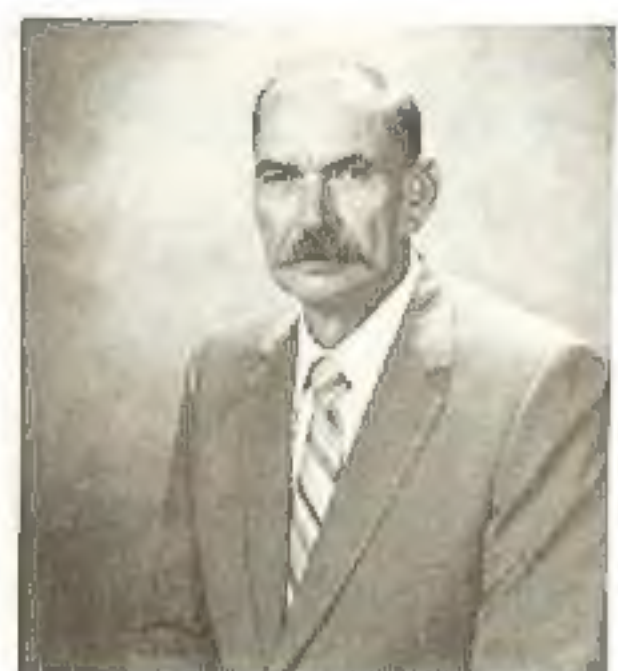
Edward E. Cryer
Engineering Servs.
Beaumont



Charles B. Kelly
Gas Department
Baton Rouge



Jack A. Sirman
Engineering Servs.
Beaumont

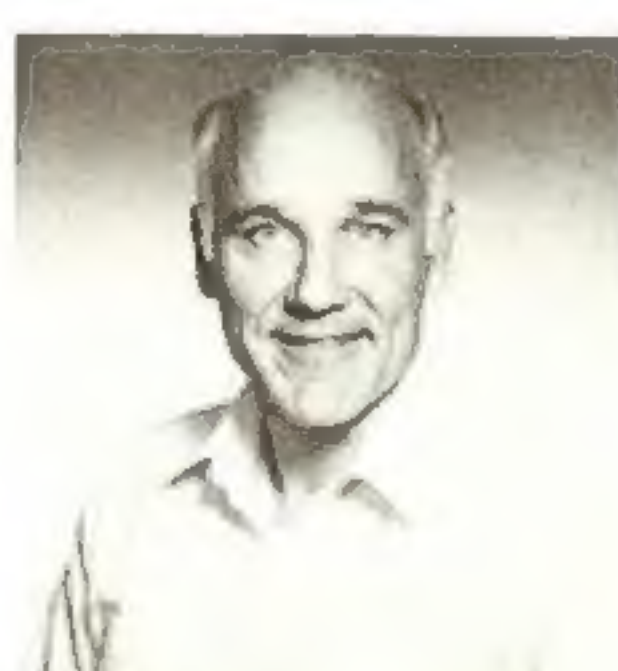


Hershel Stagner
Electric T&D
Orange



Alvin J. Phillips
Electric T&D
Beaumont

20 years



Jerold E. Cahal
Division Marketing
Denham Springs



David L. Corbitt
Electric T&D
Baton Rouge



Kenneth A. Enloe
Electric T&D
The Woodlands



Robert W. Gajeske
Electric T&D
Conroe

10 years



Dorothy S. Patterson
Division Accounting
Beaumont



“Nuclear-generated electricity has become one of the basic props supporting the entire national economy.”

*Dr. Lynn E. Weaver
Auburn University*

Is there a connection between nuclear energy and economic growth? Some little-known facts show how America's nuclear power plants benefit the economy.

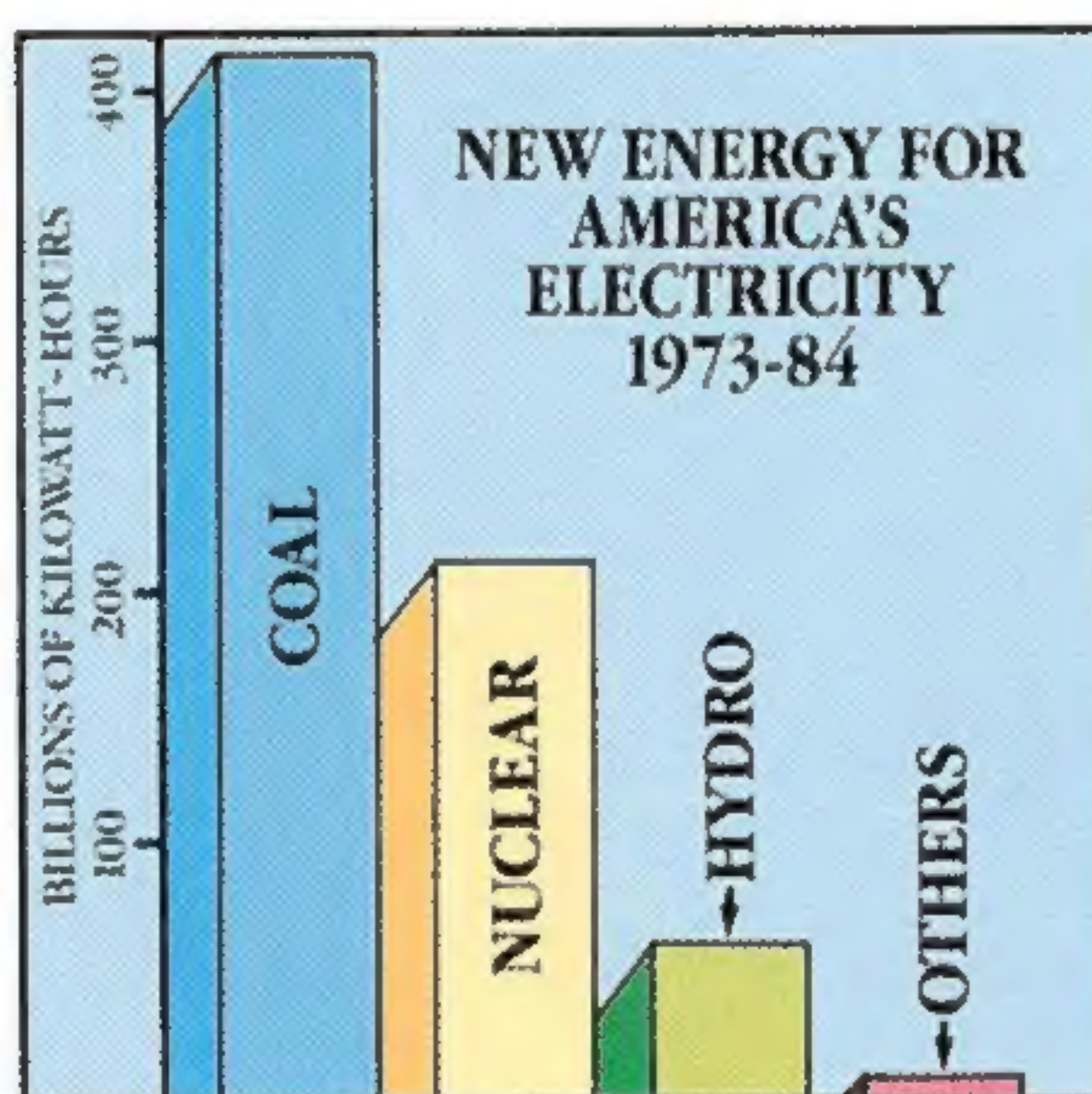
In the next two years, more than 15 new nuclear plants are due to join the 94 already generating electricity in this country — for refrigerators, streetlights, assembly lines, computers, subways and a thousand other elements of modern American life.

Nuclear saves money and fuel

Despite the high price tags on some of the new plants, the average cost of generating U.S. nuclear electricity is still under a nickel per kilowatt-hour.

That's economical energy. Nuclear power saved American consumers over \$2 billion in 1984 alone, compared to what the electricity would have cost coming from coal- and oil-fired plants.

What's more, using nuclear fuel cuts energy imports and takes some of the pressure off our shrinking domestic reserves of oil and natural gas.



Coal and nuclear energy have provided over 90 percent of all the new electricity added to our energy supply since 1973. This has enabled utilities to reduce their consumption of more costly oil and natural gas. Source: Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy.

An electrifying economy

The U.S. Gross National Product is a basic measure of economic activity. Since 1973 the GNP has grown by 31 percent, which closely parallels the 33 percent growth in the nation's electricity demand.

But over the same period, the direct burning of fuels for non-electric energy has actually gone down, as the economy converts to using more electrical energy.

What many people don't realize is that most of America's new electricity is coming from coal and nuclear power. Electricity growth in 1984 was 58 percent coal and 24 percent nuclear, according to the Federal Energy Information Administration.

The key to energy independence

The growing supply of electricity from U.S. coal and nuclear also reduces our dependence on imported energy.

But we're still a long way from energy independence. America is paying a billion dollars every week for foreign oil. Greater use of domestic electricity sources means fewer U.S. dollars sent abroad.

Nuclear power and coal can meet the country's growing electrical needs *and* help reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

For a free booklet on this subject, write the U.S. Committee for Energy Awareness, P.O. Box 1537 (K1), Ridgely, MD 21681. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Information about energy America can count on

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